

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 057199

O 072111Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9195

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 11678

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUFFUM FROM EXBD MEMBER
GORDON SCHERER

NESCO

E.O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: PORG, UNESCO, US

SUBJECT: UNESCO 97TH EXBD MEETING - ARAB-ISRAELI
ISSUES

1. YOUR TELEGRAM OF MAY 5, 1975 RE ARAB-ISRAELI
ISSUES, AS I INTERPRET IT, REQUESTS MY VIEWS IN RE
ANTI ISRAELI RESOLUTIONS OF LAST CONFERENCE. CONCUR,
EXCEPT PERHAPS FOR EMPHASIS, ON STAFF'S EXCELLENT RE-
PORT FACTUAL SITUATION.
2. CONVINCED THAT RESOLUTIONS EXBD CALLING FOR RE-
COMMENDATIONS TO NEXT CONFERENCE WHICH WOULD RECOMMEND
ISRAEL'S MEMBERSHIP IN EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP--OR
RECOMMEND RECONSIDERATION OF ITS ACTION -- OR SO CALLED
INNOCUOUS RESOLUTION RESTATING UNESCO'S BASIC PRINCI-
PLES, WITH OR WITHOUT PARAGRAPHS, RECOGNIZING THE RIGHT
OF ANY MEMBER STATE TO PARTICIPATE IN ALL UNESCO
ACTIVITIES, CANNOT BE ADOPTED.
3. SECRETARIAT STRONGLY OPPOSED TO ALL OF THEM BECAUSE
IT IS CLAIMED DG HAS PUT FORTH SUPER-HUMAN EFFORT TO
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HAVE PRO ARAB MATTERS REMOVED FROM CALENDAR SO AS TO

COMPLETELY DEPOLITICIZE ENTIRE MEETING AND THAT ANY OF THE FOREGOING RESOLUTIONS WILL OPEN DEBATE TO ALL POLITICAL CONTROVERSIES.

4. SECRETARIAT AND OTHERS CONTENTS PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS AFTER PROPER PREPARATION COULD BE PRESENTED AT OCTOBER 1975 MEETING BUT WILL NOT GUARANTEE IT, OR THAT ANOTHER ATTEMPT WILL NOT BE MADE TO DEPLITICIZE OCTOBER MEETING.

AGENDA CALLS FOR VOTE ON INVITATIONS TO MEDITERRANEAN EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE BETWEEN EUROPEAN AND ARAB STATES FRONTING ON MEDITERRANEAN. ISRAEL IS GLARINGLY OMITTED --FROM THE INVITEES CONSISTING OF 153 STATES, INTERNATIONAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS. SECRETARIAT PREFERS US VOTE "YES" OR ABSTAIN IN ORDER TO AVOID POLITICAL CONFRONTATIONS.

5. IF THIS RESOLUTION IS ADOPTED, AND THE US VOTES "YES" OR ABSTAINS, IT IS MY CONVICTION THAT IN THE US AND ELSEWHERE REACTIONS WILL BE GREATER THAN OUTCRY AGAINST THE TWO ISRAELI RESOLUTIONS-- NO MATTER WHAT MAY BE THE MERITS FOR OMITTING ISRAEL. IT WILL BE ARGUED THAT INSTEAD OF UNESCO REVERSING, MODIFYING OR SOFTENING ITS POSITION, THAT IT HAS CONFIRMED AND HARDENED ITS ATTITUDE AGAINST ISRAEL.

6. UNLESS YOUR DELEGATE VOTES "NO" AND EXPLAINS WHY HE DOES SO IT WILL RESULT IN THE US ADMINISTRATION BEING BITTERLY ATTACKED BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND THE CURRENT ANTI-UNESCO GROUPS, INCLUDING THE PRO UNITED STATES COMMISSION FOR UNESCO.

7. THE PRESIDENT FOR AN IDEFINITE PERIOD IN THE FUTURE -- WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CERTIFY THE PAYMENT OF US FUNDS TO UNESCO. IT, THEREFORE APPEARS

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O 072111Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9196

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 11678

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THAT OUR VOTE ON THIS ISSUE MUST BE "NO" AND I INTEND
TO SO VOTE.

MANY MEMBER STATES CONSIDER THE UNITED STATES WEAK AND
HAVING LOST EFFECTIVE INFLUENCE IN UNESCO. IT IS FUR-
THER CONTENDED THAT THE SECRETARIAT AND OTHERS ARE NOT
CONCERNED OVER NONPAYMENT OF US CONTRIBUTION.

THE ARAB AND COMMUNIST BLOC HAVE BECOME THE DOMINANT
FACTORS IN UNESCO. SOME OF THE EUROPEAN BLOCS ARE
DESERTING THE UNITED STATES ON KEY ISSUES. I HAVE
HERETOFORE ARGUED THAT UNITED NATIONS IS ONE OF
THE WEAPONS IN OUR ARSENAL OF DEFENSE AND PEACE AND
THAT IN SPITE OF ITS MANY GLARING FAULTS AND SHORT-
COMINGS THE UNITED STATES MUST REMAIN A MEMBER OF THE
UNITED NATIONS FAMILY.

8. IT APPEARS IF WE SIT BY AND DO NOTHING AFFIRMATIVELY
THE US ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION AND INFLUENCE IN OUR
COUNTRY AND ELSEWHERE WILL CONTINUE TO DETERIORATE. IT
IS REALIZED THAT IF WE TAKE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION ON THE
FOREGOING RESOLUTIONS WE TAKE A CALCULATED RISK. HOW-
EVER, I BELIEVE IT IS WORTH IT. THE PUBLIC AND CERTAIN
MEMBERS OF CONGRESS DEMAND IT. I DON'T BELIEVE BEING
DEFEATED ON THE RESOLUTIONS WILL DO AS MUCH HARM IN US
AS SITTING ON OUR HANDS. IN THE LONG RUN IT WILL BE
BENEFICIAL TO THE US AND UNESCO. AT LEAST THE UNITED
STATES WILL GAIN IN RESPECT AT HOME AND ABROAD.

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9. EVEN IF THE UNITED STATES WITHDRAWS FROM UNESCO FOR
A FEW YEARS, THE POSTURE OF THE UNITED STATES AND UNESCO
WILL EVENTUALLY BE IMPROVED. I REALIZE THERE MAY BE
OTHER MORE IMPORTANT ISSUES OF WHICH I HAVE NOT BEEN IN-
FORMED THAT MAY REQUIRE THE US TO DO OTHERWISE. YOUR
REACTION AND ADVICE WILL BE APPRECIATED SINCE THIS IS
BASICALLY A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE AND POLICY AND NOT
WHOLLY AN ISRAELI-ARAB CONFRONTATION. OUR POSITION
WOULD MOST LIKELY BE SAME IF TWO OTHER NATIONS WERE IN-
VOLVED IN A SIMILAR SITUATION.

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